

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | OKANAGAN



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OKANAGAN SENATE

MINUTES OF 12 MARCH 2008

Attendance

Present: President S. J. Toope (Chair), Deputy Vice-Chancellor Dr. D. Owram, Dr. A. S. Abd-El-Aziz (Provost), Mr. R. Adl, Mr. P. Arthur, Dean B. Bauer, Dean R. Belton, Dean J. Bottorff, Dr. W. Broughton, Dean R. Campbell, Dr. J. Castricano, Mr. R. Chavarie, Dr. J. Cioe, Ms. L. Driscoll, Dr. M. Duran-Cogan, Mr. R. Gandha, Dr. J. Gustar, Dean M. Isaacson, Dr. D. Keyes, Mr. M. Koovisk, Dr. A. Labun, Dr. R. Lalonde, Mr. G. Lepp, Acting Dean C. Mathieson, Dr. S. McCoubrey, Dr. C. McFadyen, Ms. N. Neumann, Dr. S. Reid, Dr. M. Ungureanu, Mr. F. Vogt (Associate Registrar & Acting Secretary), Dr. M. Williams, Dr. P. Wrzesniewski, Dr. S. Yannacopoulos

Guests: Ms. L. M. Collins (Associate Secretary), Mr. C. Eaton, Ms. N. Limbos-Bomberg, Ms. D. Robinson (Associate Registrar)

Regrets: Mr. B. Silzer (AVP and Registrar), Mr. G. August, Ms. S. Barnard, Dr. J. Bassett-Smith, Dr. E. Butz, Ms. M. Burton, Ms. E. Johnston, Mr. D. Lubbers, Ms. V. Lymberopoulos, Dr. C. Scarff, Ms. M. Wilson, Ms. G. Zilm

Recording Secretary: Ms. K. Ross

Call to Order

Chair President S. J. Toope called the Senate to order.

Agenda

The Agenda was accepted by consent.

Senate Membership

Mr. Vogt announced that Matthew Koovisk had been acclaimed as a Student Member of the Nominating Committee until 31 March 2008 and thereafter until a successor was elected.

Unfinished Business

Report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Dr. Doug Owram: Okanagan Budget Update

The Report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Dr. Owram had been postponed from the 13 February Senate meeting. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor introduced the Okanagan Budget Update by stating that the final budget letter from the government had not yet been received. Budget numbers outlined in the Okanagan Budget Update presentation should not be considered as final. He stated that a special meeting with the Okanagan Budget Committee would be organized to update Senate members on the fiscal budget, as confirmed by the BC government. Though the draft Okanagan Budget included some positive developments, such as rapid growth in the campus build out, increased overall student enrolment, additional faculty hires primarily in the Faculties of Applied Science and Management, additional staff hires, increased Faculty budgets, and increased student scholarships and awards; problems remain with the one-time funding shortfall, and the under funding of the capital expansion UBC Okanagan was therefore left with a debt of \$51 million. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Dr. Owram described the Okanagan situation as serious.

Discussion

In response to a question from Dr. Cioe, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Dr. Owram stated that the numbers outlined in the Okanagan Budget Update, would be a best case scenario for 2008/2009. Recalling the Academic Plan, Dr. Williams asked about the resources being infused into teaching and student engagement as compared to research initiatives. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Dr. Owram confirmed that the third phase of the student residences would be submitted to the Board of Governors in May. He further verified that funding for teaching assistantships, student life, and athletics had already been arranged.

Dean Isaacson asked questions about the percentage of funds allocated to the Okanagan campus in relation to the Vancouver campus; the minimum number students that the current budget is expected to educate; and whether UBC Okanagan had considered the allocation of funding by discipline, rather than by Faculty. Dr. Abd-El-Aziz confirmed that on-going discussions with Mr. Ian Burgess, Acting Associate Vice-President, Finance, on similar items would occur.

In response to some general budget queries, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor noted that all UBC Okanagan employee benefits, such as pension, health, and dental are included in the general section of the budget. He confirmed at UBC Okanagan the emphasis remained an onsite course delivery, as opposed to increasing the number of distance education courses.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting, 13 February 2008

Moved: Acting Dean Mathieson
Seconded: Dr. Williams

That the minutes of the Okanagan Senate Meeting of 13 February be adopted.

The motion was put and carried.

Chair's Remarks and Related Questions

President Toope apologized for his absence at many of the Okanagan Senate meetings this year, due to travel; he expressed thanks to Senators, for their continued work over the past weeks and months.

OVERVIEW OF THE OKANAGAN CAMPUS

President Toope stated that since its inception, UBC Okanagan has taken on an ambitious set of goals. A new campus was being built in a time when overall student enrolment was peaking, competition for faculty and staff members was high, and the provincial government was pulling capital funding in all areas – but an enormous amount has been achieved. Although the initial, improbably high enrolment targets set by the government have not been met, the campus has managed to attract new students and faculty members, as well as to construct new buildings, including several student residences; the Charles Fipke Building should be completed this fall. President Toope encouraged everyone to give themselves credit, for achieving a great deal in a difficult context.

OVERVIEW OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

President Toope drew the attention of Senators to positive UBC developments. He had been overwhelmed by the outstanding work being undertaken by the UBC Community.

- The creation of five, of 11, new UBC Centres through the federal government's *Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE)* program (see: <http://www.nce.gc.ca/>);
- In late 2007, Dr. M. Hayden won the *Prix Galien Canada*; this award recognizes the outstanding contribution of a researcher or a research team to the Canadian biopharmaceutical research (see, <http://www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/media/releases/2007/mr-07-100.html>);

- Ms. S. Osbourne, a soprano in the UBC program, was selected as one of five winners in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions; Ms. Osbourne was the only finalist from Canada (see, <http://www.ubyssey.ca/?p=2589>);
- Development of a UBC Aboriginal Strategic Plan;
- New venture for sustainability research and global practice; and
- Major development campaigns to encapsulate all that UBC does.

PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL BUDGETS

In recent discussions between President Toope and the provincial government, it had appeared unlikely that the government planned to increase support for universities. In January 2008, the Pacific Institute of Climate Action had been endowed with \$93 million. President Toope noted that provincially colleges are encountering financial difficulties. They are missing enrolment targets and their administrators are concerned about how to continue to function effectively. UBC, Simon Fraser University, and other BC Universities, other than Thompson Rivers University, however are considerably over their respective enrolment targets. This imbalance might signal a decline in university funding, and set funding to the colleges. President Toope had been admittedly taken back by the BC's provincial budget processes.

Also affecting postsecondary education is the political focus on the health disciplines, with a planned addition of 2,500 student seats. President Toope indicated a potential problem for UBC, since health seats are continually under funded and therefore they must be cross-subsidized by the rest of the university. For instance, a medical student's education costs approximately \$94,000 per annum; the government compensates UBC for \$63,000. In order to fund the work of the university, President Toope expressed the need for UBC to find alternative sources of revenue that do not depend entirely on government funding. He outlined that one avenue might include a capital development campaign. President Toope remained hopeful.

On a more positive note, President Toope stated that the 2008 Federal Government Budget, signals some progress for postsecondary education. In 2009, the Canada Student Grants program will replace the Millennium Fund. As well, the Vanier Scholarship will award 500 prestigious scholarships worth up to \$50,000 to top Canadian or International PhD students. Further, President Toope was pleased to report that the granting councils were all allocated marginal increases.

Discussion

In response to a question from Dr. Cioe, President Toope stated that a medical program would be a very positive addition to the Okanagan campus; UBC is delivering on a goal that had been set years ago. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Dr. Owram confirmed that 95% of the medical school costs will be managed through the UBC Vancouver campus. Further, all faculty will be hired through the Vancouver campus, without a need for cross-subsidy, from UBC Okanagan.

Nominating Committee – Dr. Robert Lalonde

The Committee Chair Dr. Robert Lalonde presented the reports:

Triennial Review of Committee Terms of Reference

Moved: Dr. Lalonde

Seconded: Dr. Cioe

That Senate approves the changes to the Standing Committees of Senate, as amended below, effective 1 September 2008.

The Committee had circulated proposed changes to the Senate Standing Committee Terms of Reference, which recommended the expansion of the committee structure from six to eight. He noted that the committee is aware, and is working to minimize any potential committee staffing issues. Dr. Lalonde highlighted that the Policies and Procedures Committee would be split into two committees: Academic Policy and Agenda. As well, the newly proposed Academic Building and Resources Committee would assume in part, the work of the Okanagan *Ad Hoc Campus Design Steering Committee*.

Discussion

In response to a question from Dean Bauer, Mr. Eaton confirmed that the word ‘units’ as written in the proposed Academic Policy Committee Terms of Reference, is a Board of Governors term that includes anything academic, i.e. academic units, administrative units, etc; the term is therefore not limited to the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences, use of the term. Dean Bauer suggested that the ‘establishment and discontinuation of internal structure’ should be a shared responsibility between the administration, the Board of Governors, and the Senate. Dean Bauer signaled that the reference to the Strategic and the Academic Plans, under the proposed Learning and Research Committee Terms of Reference, is too specific and questioned their inclusion in the document. Further, he suggested that the AVP Operations be consulted on the language, included in the proposed Academic Building and Resources Committee Terms of Reference.

The assembly accepted a friendly amendment, to the Learning and Research Committee proposed Terms of Reference, as listed, in bold:

“Matters relating to international programs and initiatives **in collaboration with the Curriculum Committee**; and”

In response to a question from Dean Isaacson, Mr. Eaton confirmed the membership of the proposed Academic Building and Resources Committee as being comprised of three faculty members, a convocation senator, a student senator (all of the above from the UBC Okanagan delegation to the Council of Senates), the Academic Vice-President, the Chair of the Vancouver Sub-Committee, and the Registrar (non-voting). Additionally, the UBC Okanagan Associate Vice-Presidents are normally invited as guests to each meeting.

Ms. L'Orsa asked for a clarification about the Nominating Committee's responsibility in composing the Senate membership, and how the committee is prepared to deal with having more student representative committee seats than there are student representatives. Dr. Lalonde stated that the Nominating Committee assesses the total number of Senators, the ratio between student, faculty, and administration members, the addition of members to committees, among other responsibilities. Dr. Lalonde noted that student representatives might volunteer to be assigned to more than one standing committee.

The motion was put and carried.

Ad Hoc Committee to Consider the Format of the UBC Okanagan Convocation Ceremonies

Moved: Dr. Lalonde

Seconded: Dr. Owram

That Senate strike an Ad hoc Committee to Consider the Format of Convocation Ceremonies with the terms of reference and composition set out above, and thus delegate Senate's authority for rules regarding Meetings of the Convocation under the University Act to that ad-hoc committee until April 2008.

Carried (2/3 vote).

Curriculum Committee

The Committee Chair Dr. Jennifer Gustar presented the report from the Faculties of Arts and Sciences, Creative and Critical Studies, and Health and Social Development.

Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Moved: Dr. Gustar

Seconded: Dr. Cioe

That Senate approve the new program and new courses brought forward by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, as set out in the attached package.

Discussion

Dr. Labun questioned the second-year English requirement in the Major in Freshwater Science proposal. Dr. Gustar confirmed that taking a first-year English course in year two would allow students to meet their first-year program requirements prior to advancing to third year. She added that by taking discipline-specific requirements in year one, students would hopefully feel more invested in the program. Dr. Cioe added that relatively few sections of Physics courses were available, while multiple English sections are available; therefore students moving into their second year may do so more easily, without

competing with first-year students for the more limited courses. Dr. Gustar confirmed that the Repeating Courses for Credit proposal applies only to the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

The motion was put and carried.

Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies

Moved: Dr. Gustar

Seconded: Dr. Reid

That Senate approve the new program and new courses brought forward by the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies, as set out in the attached package.

Carried.

Faculty of Health and Social Development

Moved: Dr. Gustar

Seconded: Dean Bottorff

That Senate approve the new program and new courses brought forward by the Faculty of Health and Social Development as edited in the attached package.

Carried.

Admissions and Awards Committee

The Committee Chair Dr. McCoubrey recommended the following reports:

New Awards

Moved: Dr. McCoubrey

Seconded: Ms. Neumann

That the Senate accept the new awards as listed and forward it to the Board of Governors for approval, and that a letter of thanks be sent to the donors.

LEVELTON Consultants Ltd. Scholarship in Engineering: A \$1,000 scholarship is offered by Levelton Consultants Ltd. to a student in the School of Engineering at The University of British Columbia Okanagan. The award is made on the recommendation of the School. (First award available for the 2008/09 Winter Session)

Kimberly MAHMOUD Bursary: Bursaries totalling \$1,000 are offered by Kimberly Mahmoud to undergraduate or graduate students at The University of British Columbia Okanagan. (First awards available for the 2008/09 Winter Session)

Discussion

Dr. McCoubrey confirmed that the Kimberley Mahmoud Bursary would be granted to students based on financial need. She verified that the Levelton Consultants Ltd. Scholarship in Engineering is available for undergraduate students only.

The motion was put and carried.

TREK Scholarship Expanding Scholarship Opportunities for ISI Students

Moved: Dr. McCoubrey

Seconded: Dr. Cioe

Motion 1: *That the Admissions and Awards Committee approve an increase in the value to \$4000 of a TREK Excellence Scholarship for ISI students in the top 5% of each undergraduate program, beginning in Winter Session 2008/09.*

Motion 2: *That the Admissions and Awards Committee approve new TREK Excellence Scholarship awards of \$1000 for ISI students in the top 5%-10% of each undergraduate program, beginning in Winter Session 2008/09.*

Discussion

In response to a question, Dr. McCoubrey stated that it had been the intention of the International Students Initiative (ISI) administrators to expand the Trek Scholarship to graduate students in professional graduate programs. President Toope confirmed that the Trek Scholarship for ISI students is self-funded through international students' tuition. He explained that international students pay significantly higher tuition fees, and that a certain percentage of those fees flow to the students through scholarships. Dr. McCoubrey confirmed that all new ISI students would be eligible for the award.

The motion was put and carried.

BC Provincial Examinations as Admissions Requirements

Moved: Dr. McCoubrey

Seconded: Dr. Cioe

That Senate postpone any consideration of the matter of Provincial Examination requirements for applicants following the BC Secondary School curriculum until its meeting of 15 May 2008.

Dr. McCoubrey expressed that the motion to postpone any consideration of the provincial examinations matter is based on the Committee's hope that a single UBC admission policy would be coordinated. She explained that a motion to eliminate provincial examinations for admission to UBC Okanagan would be presented to the Senate in May. Although, Dr. McCoubrey noted that, given recent information from the March

Vancouver Admissions Committee meeting, she is less optimistic that a motion to eliminate provincial examinations to UBC Vancouver would be presented for approval by their Senate.

Discussion

With the consent of the assembly, the Chair recognized Associate Registrar Ms. Deborah Robinson. Ms. Robinson confirmed that, should a decision be made to eliminate provincial examinations for admission to UBC Okanagan, at or before May 2008, the implementation date would need to be for applicants entering the 2009/2010 Academic Year.

Ms. Driscoll candidly asked Senators why UBC Okanagan should be fearful to take leadership on this matter. She expressed that, although a common admission policy on this matter is desired, the Okanagan campus should take immediate action, so as to increase student enrolment in the years ahead. Dr. Lalonde echoed Ms. Driscoll's sentiments, also speaking out against the motion. Dr. Reid stated that UBC Okanagan is more dependent on student enrolment than UBC Vancouver is and therefore a decision should be taken on this matter without delay. He added that UBC Okanagan's biggest competitor, the University of Victoria, have already eliminated provincial examinations, other than those required for graduation. Mr. Lepp spoke against the motion; he expressed the opinion that most students would be willing to attend other universities, which do not require provincial examinations.

Speaking in favour of the motion, Dean Isaacson stated that, based on the recruitment cycle, there does not seem to be downside to waiting until May to consider a motion on this matter. He expressed that the implications of moving forward with separate campus admission policies are unknown, from both the system and faculty perspectives. Dean Isaacson articulated that the faculties would likely require time to adjust their admissions criteria, as required. Dean Stuart noted his appreciation for Dean Isaacson's stance on the matter; however, he reminded Senators that this item had been fully debated, in the fall. Dean Stuart shared his sense that the Senate has been provided with sufficient information to move forward without further delay. In response to Dean Isaacson's view, Dean Bottorff expressed that, should the faculties decide to shift their own admissions policies based on the decision to eliminate provincial examinations for admissions, then those plans should be made presently.

Dean Isaacson understood that his fellow Senators would likely defeat the motion; however from a point of order view, he felt uncomfortable voting on a new motion without further examination of the implications the decision would cause.

The motion failed.

Dr. Lalonde asked that Option C, as presented for information to the Senate in December and January, be moved for Senate approval.

Moved: Dr. Lalonde
Seconded: Mr. Koovisk

That the Senate adopt Option C as presented by the A&AC at the December 2007 meeting of the Senate, with such changes to be effective for students entering UBC O in September 2009.

Option C was defined as follows:

OPTION C: OPTIONAL PROVINCIAL EXAMINATIONS

Description:

- UBC does not require Grade 12 provincial examinations other than those required for graduation by the Ministry of Education (English 12).*
- March/April admission decisions are made on course grades only. The majority of students are admitted on interim grades.
- Should an applicant have already completed an optional Grade 12 examination, the final blended grade may be used in the March/April admission decision, but only if it is to the student's advantage.
- Students can write provincial exams in any course used in the calculation of an admission average in order to boost their competitive average.
- Students not admitted in March/April may be admitted in July/August if a) their July grades are above the competitive cut-off and b) space permits.
- Offers of admission are only revoked if a student falls below the published university minimum of 67%, fails or does not complete a pre-requisite course, and/or does not graduate.

Dean Isaacson advised that in consideration of the motion should be postponed until April. He suggested that Option C should be read carefully, rather than blindly accepting an option that could be potentially improved, for the Okanagan campus. In response to a request from Dr. McCoubrey, President Toope read aloud Option C as written in the Senate Admissions Subcommittee: BC Grade 12 Provincial Examinations Final Report – August 2007.

Dr. Labun asked whether the Okanagan campus would appear inane should the motion be approved only by the Okanagan Senate. He queried whether the Vancouver Senate should be informed that the Okanagan Senate would be making a decision by May, and ask that they jointly recommend a similar motion to their Senate. Dr. Duran-Cogan supported Dr. Labun's suggestion.

Various Senators expressed their support to move forward with the current motion. President Toope called for any final discussions on the matter before the question was called. Dr. Williams asked that Option C be included alongside the motion. Dean Bauer noted that Provincial Examinations continue to maintain their utility, as standards in the K-12 education system. He expressed a concern that the Ministry of Education would eliminate the exams, altogether, should UBC pass the motion. Dean Bauer asked that the University express to the provincial government its ongoing support for the provincial examination program, even though UBC may no longer require the examinations for admission.

The motion was put and carried.

Joint Report of Admissions and Awards and Curriculum Committees – Dr. Sharon McCoubrey

Committee Chair Dr. McCoubrey recommended the following report:

Master in Arts in English

Moved: Dr. McCoubrey

Seconded: Dean Belton

The Curriculum Committee and Admissions and Awards Committee jointly recommend the new Master of Arts in English program and its associated courses for Senate approval as enclosed.

Discussion

A friendly amendment, offered by Dr. Cioe, was accepted to include specific language requirement in the Calendar description for the Master of Arts in English.

The motion was put and carried.

Adjournment

Moved: Dr. Cioe

Seconded: Mr. Koovisk

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

The following regular meeting was scheduled to be held on Wednesday 09 April 2008 at 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm in Library 317.